



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – May 2019

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

As this piece is being written, it is western Easter and Orthodox Palm Sunday. Quite a few of the headings on my computer are Easter-related. Most are similar to this one: “Cute l’il cakes – delight your Easter guests with the cutest cupcakes ever.” But one is jarringly and shockingly different – “Sri Lanka Easter Bombings: Bombs kill more than 200 in Sri Lankan churches, hotels on Easter Sunday.” Well, jarring, yes; but shocking, sadly, no.

Some years ago, Fr. Alex Krassovsky told us the following story. A young, college-educated man was visiting when the topic of silly holidays came up. The young man said that the silliest holiday he’d ever heard of was Easter. To the shocked looks that he received, he said, “But seriously? A holiday about a bunny rabbit?!” How in the world could a college-educated American think such a thing? Well, for decades now, the wider culture has emphasized peripheral Easter traditions while ignoring their relationship to Christ’s Resurrection. Just think of a rack of Easter cards – there are tons of secular cards with Easter eggs and bunnies and a small area called “religious”! So, it’s really not surprising that an un-churched American young person would have a completely secular view of Easter.

Nor, sadly, is it surprising that churches were bombed on Easter. In the early centuries AD, going to church was clearly an act that could get you killed, and in much of the world, that’s still the case. And if that’s true in general, much more is it true on the Day of Christ’s Resurrection. Yet people still crowd churches on Easter, especially in places where it might well be their last act on earth. Why? Because, if it IS their last act on earth, they have a sure hope that they will rise with the One who died for them.

The forces of hell can try to trivialize Easter or terrify Christians who celebrate it, and they may have some success for a while. But the victory belongs to Christ, and it has always belonged to Him – as an infant fleeing from Herod, as the King coming on a colt before His trial and crucifixion, on the Cross, in the tomb, and at His glorious Resurrection. And His victory belongs to us if we will take up our crosses and follow Him. Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania*

*and the community*

*of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## **ZOO UPDATE – Philly Our Hero!**

For a couple of weeks, Cookie the Cat, and Crackle the Parakeet and their domestic servant were banished to the far side of the monastery while a corner of their cell was being converted into an extra bathroom. This worked out fine until Cookie started venturing out of her new quarters. Balou promptly decided that she had no business on HIS side of the monastery (we won’t mention that he routinely goes to HER side of the monastery!) and he launched himself at her. The sisters had just realized what Balou was up to when the normally somnolent Philly launched HIMSELF at Balou and ran him off. So, next time we make fun of you, Philly, just remind us that a slow, sleepy kitty can be a hero, too!



*Balou – Me? Do something unkind?  
Certainly not!*



*Cookie - Ahhh. Back to  
the safety of my room!*



*Philly - Put me down, and I’ll  
continue making the monastery  
safe for helpless little kitties.*

# HOLY WEEK & PASCHA 2019

## Lazarus Saturday



Fr. Philip Tolbert

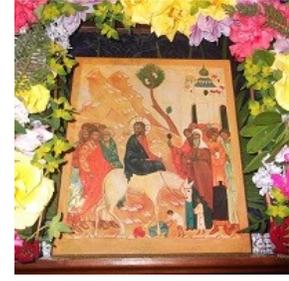


Through Lazarus, O death,  
Christ has already  
despoiled thee.

## Palm Sunday



Fr. John Takahashi



Blessed is He that comes in  
the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Great and Holy Thursday



Fr. Nicholas Carr



... the weakness of God is  
stronger than men.

## Great and Holy Friday



Glory to Thy self-abasement,  
O Thou Who lovest mankind.



Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy  
Immortal, have mercy on us!

## Great and Holy Saturday



Archbishop BENJAMIN –  
Thank you, Your  
Eminence, for joining us!



Reading the 15 Old  
Testament lessons

## Preparations for Pascha



Polishing liturgical items –  
can we put this on our resumes?



Boiling red eggs – well, future  
red eggs, more accurately



Proof positive that  
cookie decorating  
is an art form.

## Pascha



Come ye, take light  
from the Light ...



Thy Resurrection, O  
Christ our Savior, the  
angels in heaven sing ...



Christ is risen from the  
dead, trampling down  
death by death!



No caption  
necessary 😊



Agape Vespers at  
Macedonian Park



## Around the Grounds



Zachary cuts back  
the wisteria.



Wow! Where did it all go?



Ohhhh... Now what?



Thanks be to God for  
chipper-shredders!

## May 2019 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery

**Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – [sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com](mailto:sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>NOTE: Our schedule sometimes changes unexpectedly. Please check our website or the recorded message on our telephone for last-minute changes.</b>			1	2	3 9:00am Paschal Matins/Divine Liturgy <b><u>Bright Friday</u></b>	4 5:00pm Vigil
5 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Thomas Sunday</u></b>	6	7	8 6:00pm Vigil	9 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Prophet Isaiah and Martyr Christopher</u></b>  (Tentative)	10	11 5:00pm Vigil
12 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Myrrhbearers' Sunday</u></b>	13	14 6:00pm Vigil	15 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Venerable Pachomius the Great</u></b>  (Tentative)	16	17	18 5:00pm Vigil
19 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Sunday of the Paralytic</u></b>	20	21	22	23	24	25 5:00pm Vigil
26 9:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</u></b>	27	28 6:00pm Vigil	29 8:40am Hours/ Divine Liturgy <b><u>Virgin Martyr Theodosia</u></b>  (Tentative)	30	31	

### SAVE THE DATE – Saturday June 22

Fr. Edward Henderson and Veronica Ruby will be speaking on

**In His Image and Likeness: Sanctity of Life Teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church and Reflections on an Orthodox Christian Response for Our Times**

Please see enclosed flyer for more details

**Summer Retreat—Saturday June 22, 2019**

## ***In His Image and Likeness:***

*Sanctity of Life Teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church and Reflections on an Orthodox Christian Response for Our Times*

*Conducted by Fr. Edward Henderson and Veronica Ruby*

I knew you  
BEFORE I Formed  
YOU in YOUR  
mother's  
womb. BEFORE  
you were born  
I SET YOU  
Apart.  
Jeremiah 1:5

**9:00 AM—Session 1**



**10:30 AM—Session 2**



**12:15 PM Akathist**



**1 pm Lunch**



**2pm—Session 3**



**HOLY ASSUMPTION  
MONASTERY**



1519 Washington St.  
Calistoga, CA 94515  
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<http://holvassumptionmonastery.com>

No Fee—donations accepted

Call Soon—Space is limited

*Fr. Edward Henderson is the pastor of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Berkeley, and Veronica Ruby is Coordinator of Orthodox Christians for Life of the San Francisco Bay Area.*